

Application No.: 10/602,055
Art Unit: 3739

Attorney Docket No. 9052.01
Confirmation No. 7631

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A hot stone therapy apparatus for applying hot stone therapy to a person, comprising:

at least one elongated flexible member; and

a plurality of stones connected to each other by means of the at least one elongated flexible member to provide the hot stone therapy apparatus, said plurality of stones including two end stones, each of the end stones consisting of a unitary body with a single blind hole defined therein, wherein the at least one elongated flexible member is embedded in secured within the blind hole of each of the end stones, wherein the stones are capable of storing heat energy, whereby the distribution of the plurality of stones permit self-application of the stones about a desired area of a person's body;

wherein the at least one elongated flexible member is sufficiently stiff to keep the stones in place about the desired area of the person's body.

Claim 2. (*Original*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stones are natural river stones.

Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one elongated flexible member is embedded in secured within the blind hold of the end stones by a

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means selected from the group consisting of: drill and screw, drill and glue, drill and pressure fit, and drill and anchor mechanism of attachment.

Claim 4. (*Currently Amended*) A hot stone therapy apparatus for applying hot stone therapy to a person, comprising:

at least one two segments of an elongated flexible member, wherein the at least one elongated flexible member forms a duplex arrangement; and

a plurality of stones connected in series to each other by means of the at least one two segments of the elongated flexible member to provide the hot stone therapy apparatus, said plurality of stones including two end stones, each of the end stones consisting of a unitary body having two adjacent blind holes defined therein, wherein the at least two segments of the elongated flexible member are secured within the two adjacent blind holes of each of the end stones, wherein the stones are capable of storing heat energy, whereby the distribution of the plurality of stones permit self-application of the stones about a desired area of a person's body;

whereby the distribution of the plurality of stones permit self-application of the stones about a desired area of a person's body;

wherein the at least two segments of the elongated flexible member is sufficiently stiff to keep the stones in place about the desired area of the person's body.

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Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 4, wherein the hot stone therapy apparatus is a shoulder hot stone therapy apparatus consisting of five stones connected in series by elongated flexible members, ~~the two of said five stones being~~ end stones adapted to rest against a person's chest, the elongated flexible members connecting the end stones to the other three stones adapted to rest on a person's upper back; whereby, the two end stones are not directly connected to each other ~~by an elongated flexible member~~ and whereby, the person can walk about while wearing the shoulder hot stone therapy apparatus.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 4, wherein the hot stone therapy apparatus is a neck hot stone therapy apparatus consisting of three stones connected in series, wherein the stones are arranged to provide hot stone therapy to a person's neck.

Claim 7. (*Previously Presented*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hot stone therapy apparatus is a hip hot stone therapy apparatus consisting of two stones, wherein the stones are arranged to provide hot stone therapy to a person's hip.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hot stone therapy apparatus is a spine hot stone therapy apparatus consisting of four stones connected in series, wherein the stones are arranged to provide hot stone therapy to a person's spine.

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Claims 9-20. (*Cancelled*)

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) The hot stone therapy apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one elongated flexible member forms a duplex arrangement.